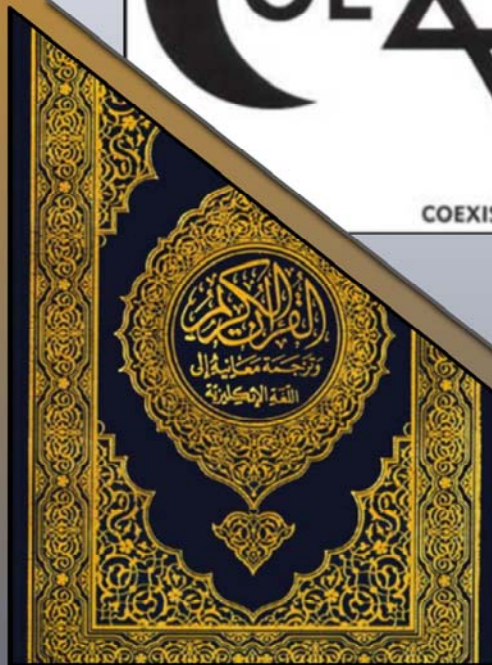




JIHAD



COEXISTENCE





I WAS BORN THE YOUNGEST SON TO A POOR VEGETABLE VENDOR IN THE GAZA STRIP



ACCORDING TO MY FATHER, ALL OF PALESTINE USED TO BE RULED BY THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE BUT AFTER THE WAR THE BRITISH TOOK OVER

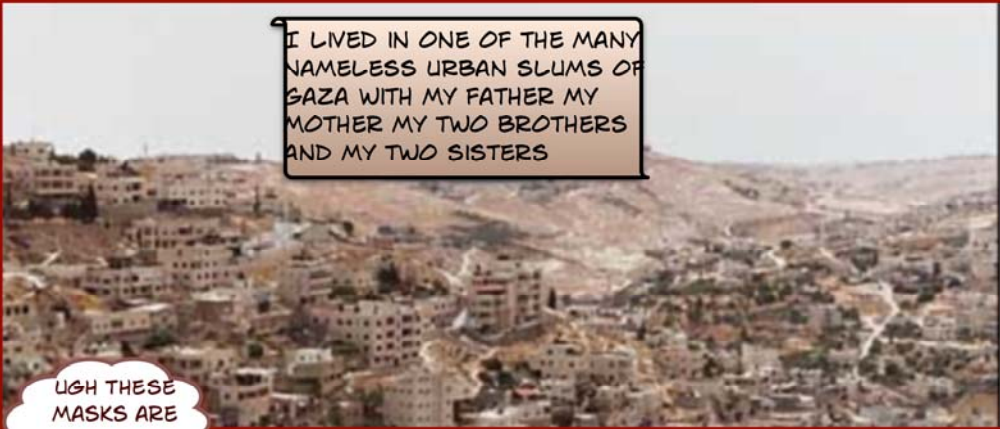


IN 1947, THE UNITED NATIONS CREATED THE NATION OF ISRAEL AND MY PEOPLE WERE SEQUESTERED INTO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. FOLLOWING SOME DEVESTATING WARS, THE ACCURSED STATE GREW.



HOWEVER, ISRAEL RETURNED MOST OF THE LAND THEY CONQUERED AND RETURNED TO PRE-1967 BORDERS. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO BUILD A WALL AROUND MY HOME

I LIVED IN ONE OF THE MANY
NAMELESS URBAN SLUMS OF
GAZA WITH MY FATHER MY
MOTHER MY TWO BROTHERS
AND MY TWO SISTERS



UGH THESE
MASKS ARE
MAKING MY
FACE HOT



WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS
OLD, MY BROTHERS LEFT
TO JOIN HAMAS,. I WOULD
LATER LEARN THAT THEY
DIED IN A TARGETED
KILLING BY THE ISRAELI
DEFENSE FORCE, IDF

AN ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE
DESTROYED MY HOME. MY
FRIENDS AND I DUG THROUGH
THE RUBBLE. I FOUND MY
PARENTS CRUSHED REMAINS



I'M HUNGRY



THEN, WHEN I WAS TEN
THE IDF, PERHAPS THE
WORLDS MOST
EFFECTIVE FIGHTING
FORCE, INVADDED GAZA



FILLED WITH RAGE, I FOUND THE NEAREST ISRAELI HOUSE AND MURDERED AN ENTIRE FAMILY. I THAN THREW UP AND PASSED OUT; I NEVER WANTED TO BE A KILLER



I WOKE UP TO A HAMAS PATROL, THE IDF WAS FORCED BACK AND THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR LOST YOUTH. SOME OF THEM KNEW MY BROTHERS



I WAS TAKEN TO A HAMAS TRAINING CAMP. THERE I MADE 2 NEW FRIENDS, KIMEN AND MANSUR, BOTH ORPHANS FROM THE WAR

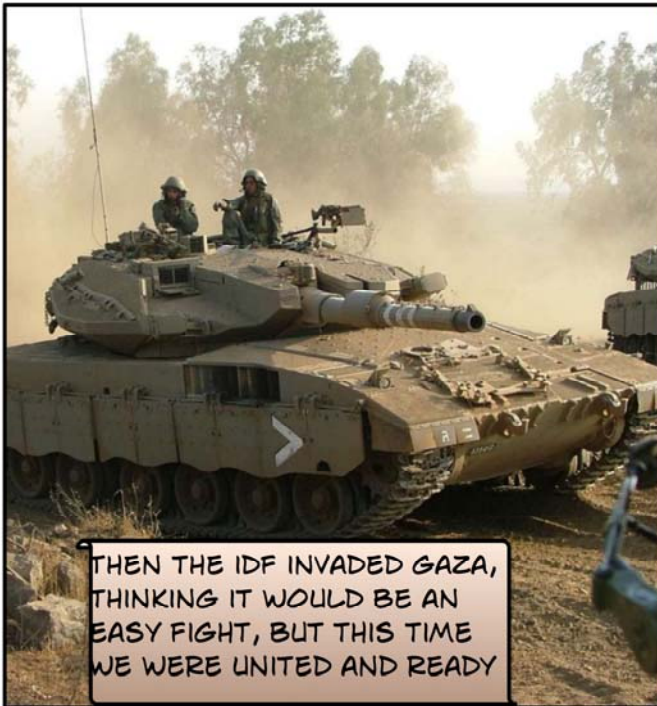


THE THREE OF US QUICKLY MADE IT THROUGH BASIC TRAINING AND JOINED THE MAIN ARMY. I NEVER PARTICULARLY ENJOYED BEING LABELED AS A TERRORIST BUT IT WAS THE ONLY THING I HAD LEFT.

THE THREE OF US BECAME GUERILLA COMMANDOS. AFTER A FEW YEARS I HAD BECOME LEADER OF HAMAS.



I ALWAYS FOUND IT WEIRD HOW THE CAMP NEVER HAD A COMPLETE VERSION OF THE HOLY QUARAN, MERELY EXCERPTS



THEN THE IDF INVADED GAZA,
THINKING IT WOULD BE AN
EASY FIGHT, BUT THIS TIME
WE WERE UNITED AND READY



WE COUNTERED THEIR
OFFENSIVE AND DESTROYED
THEIR ABHORENT WALL



MY ARMY AND
HEZBOLLAH TOGETHER
LAUNCHED A MULTI-
PRONGED ATTACK ON
ISRAEL



THE COMBINED ARMIES
SWEPT THROUGH ISRAEL
MEETING AT TEL AVIV



HOWEVER, AT THE BATTLE
OF TEL AVIV, MY BEST
FRIEND, MANSUR, WAS
KILLED. FACING A PRIMAL
RAGE I HAVEN'T FACED
SINCE MY FAMILY WAS
KILLED, I ORDERED THE
ENTIRE CITY TO BE
DESTROYED



I THEN SET MY SIGHTS
ON THE ULTIMATE PRIZE,
JERUSALEM. FILLED WITH
RAGE I DESTROYED EVERY
VILLAGE FROM TEL AVIV
TO JERUSALEM



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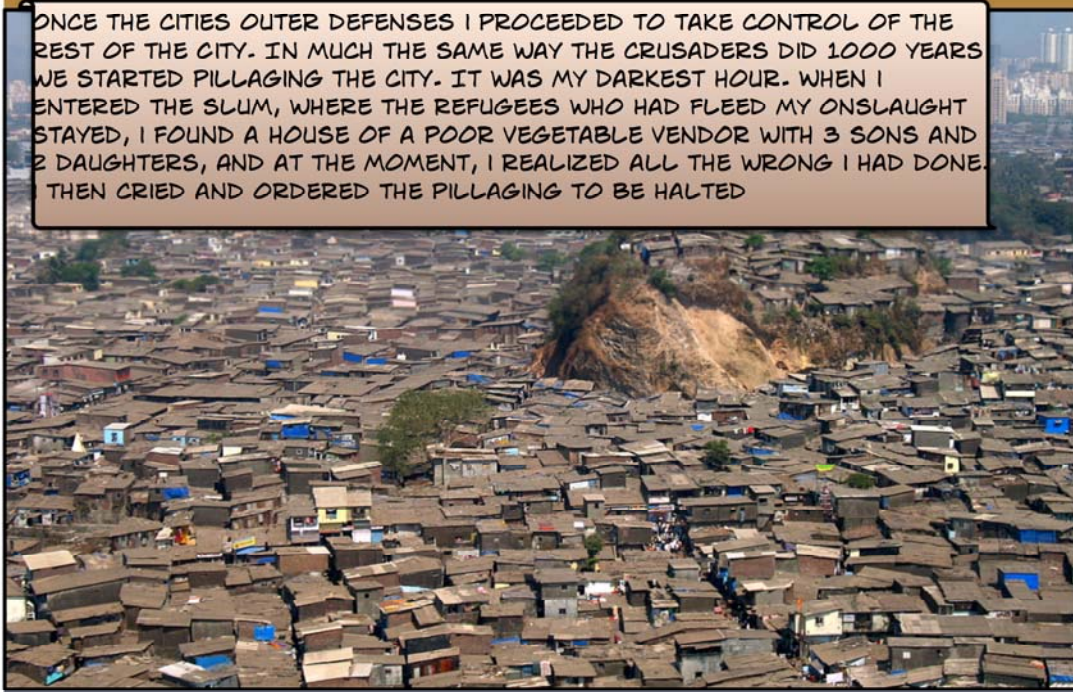


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JERUSALEM, PERHAPS HE MOST FOUGHT OVER CITY IN THE WORLD, HAD A COMENDABLE DEFENSE. BUT IT WAS NO MATCH FOR THE COMBINED MIGHT OF MY ARMY, HEZBOLLAH, AND HAMAS AND FATAH FROM THE WEST BANK.



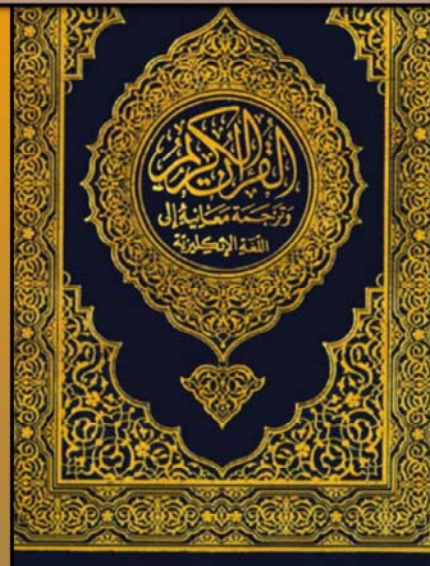
ONCE THE CITIES OUTER DEFENSES I PROCEEDED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE REST OF THE CITY. IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THE CRUSADERS DID 1000 YEARS WE STARTED PILLAGING THE CITY. IT WAS MY DARKEST HOUR. WHEN I ENTERED THE SLUM, WHERE THE REFUGEES WHO HAD FLEED MY ONSLAUGHT STAYED, I FOUND A HOUSE OF A POOR VEGETABLE VENDOR WITH 3 SONS AND 2 DAUGHTERS, AND AT THE MOMENT, I REALIZED ALL THE WRONG I HAD DONE. THEN CRIED AND ORDERED THE PILLAGING TO BE HALTED



I SPENT THAT NIGHT IN THE DOME OF THE ROCK, AND I FOUND A QUARAN.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I READ THE ENTIRE QUARAN. AND I REALIZED WHY THE CAMPS NEVER HAD A QUARAN. WHILE ISLAM DOES ALLOW WAR, IT DOES NOT ALLOW THE MURDER OF INNOCENT CIVILAINS. IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT REALIZED THAT I HAD BEEN LIVING A LIE

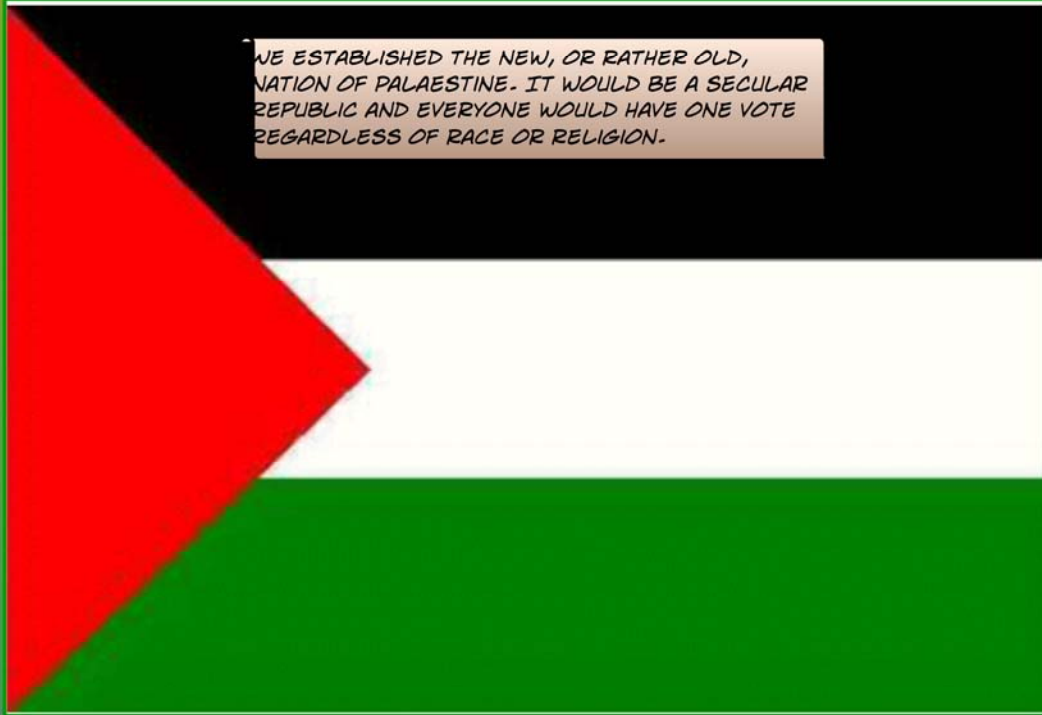


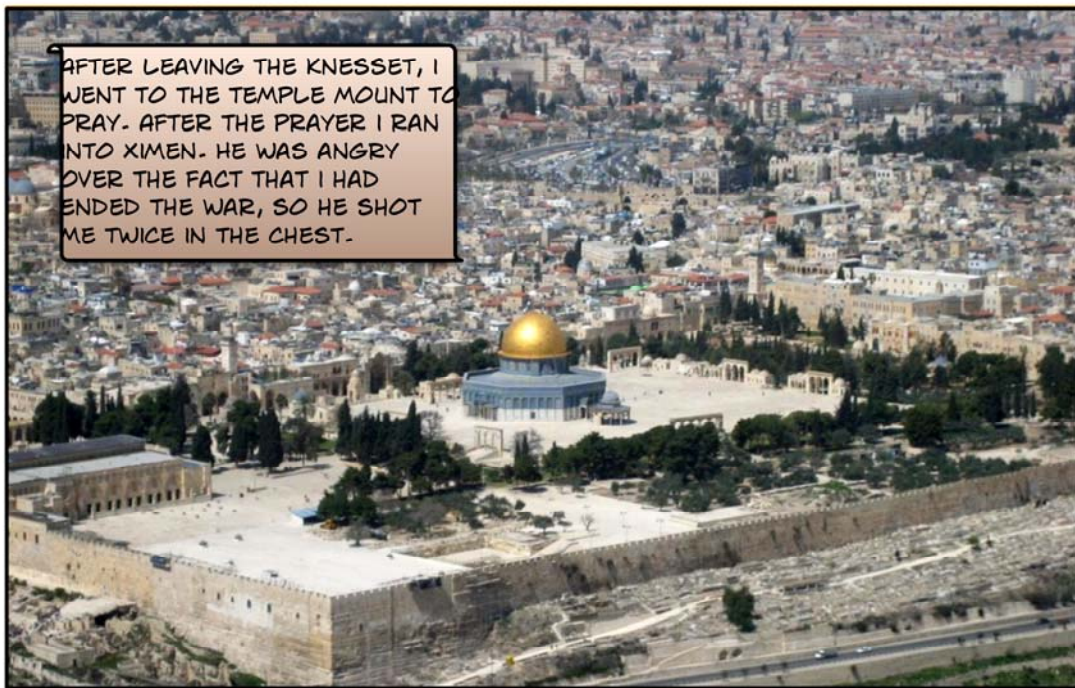
I THEN REALIZED WHAT I HAD TO DO

I CALLED A MEETING OF THE KNESSET. I'M SURE THEY ALL THOUGHT THAT THYE WERE GOING TO BE EXECUTED. BUT INSTEAD OF KILLING THEM, I BROKERED PEACE.

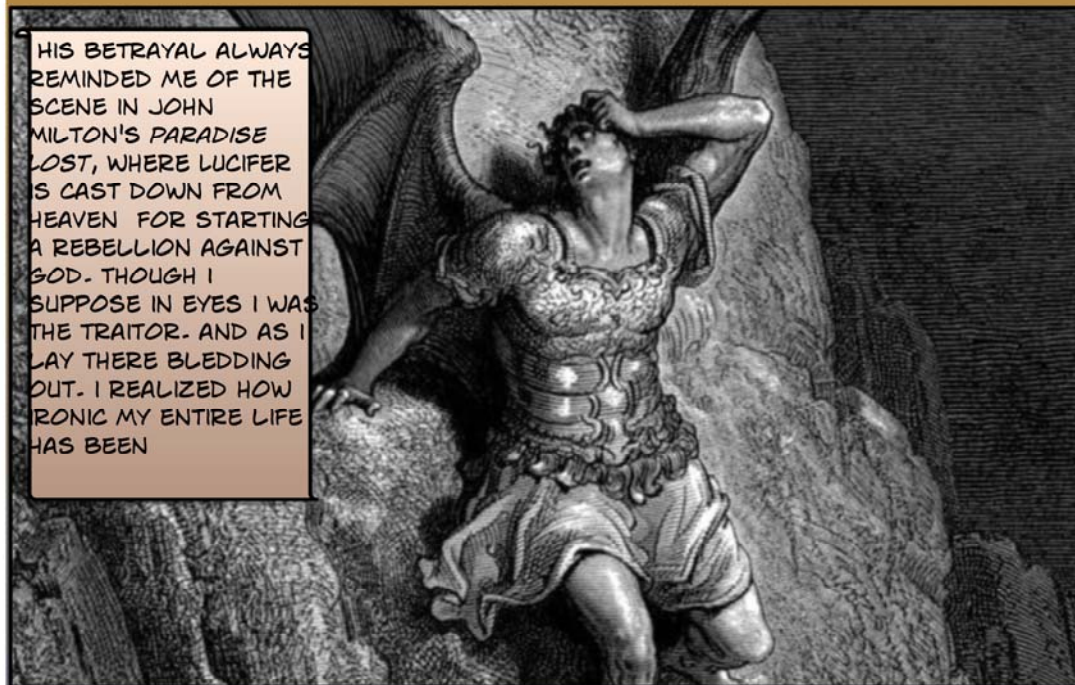


WE ESTABLISHED THE NEW, OR RATHER OLD, NATION OF PALAESTINE. IT WOULD BE A SECULAR REPUBLIC AND EVERYONE WOULD HAVE ONE VOTE REGARDLESS OF RACE OR RELIGION.





AFTER LEAVING THE KNESSET, I WENT TO THE TEMPLE MOUNT TO PRAY. AFTER THE PRAYER I RAN INTO XIMEN. HE WAS ANGRY OVER THE FACT THAT I HAD ENDED THE WAR, SO HE SHOT ME TWICE IN THE CHEST.



HIS BETRAYAL ALWAYS REMINDED ME OF THE SCENE IN JOHN MILTON'S *PARADISE LOST*, WHERE LUCIFER IS CAST DOWN FROM HEAVEN FOR STARTING A REBELLION AGAINST GOD. THOUGH I SUPPOSE IN EYES I WAS THE TRAITOR. AND AS I LAY THERE BLEEDING OUT, I REALIZED HOW IRONIC MY ENTIRE LIFE HAS BEEN

It's better to light a candle than to curse the dark

-K'Neon

